

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 NSCE-00 ERDA-05 USIE-00
ERDE-00 IO-13 EURE-00 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 /073 W

-----091212 291816Z /41

O 291703Z SEP 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6244
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T NATO 09354

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG
SUBJECT: LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM: TNF IMPROVEMENTS

REF: (A) USNATO 9197 (DTG 261035Z SEP 77), (B) STATE
226666 (DTG 211632Z SEP 77)
SUMMARY: THE ALLIES WILL LOOK PRIMARILY TO THE US FOR
PROPOSALS ON HOW TO CARRY OUT THE THEATER NUCLEAR FORCE
(TNF) LONG TERM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TASK FORCE 10)
FOLLOWING THE BARI NPG MINISTERIAL. THIS QUESTION WILL
BE A PRIMARY SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT THE OCTOBER 3
NPG PERMREPS MEETING. WE BELIEVE THE US SHOULD BE
PREPARED TO PRESENT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AT THAT MEETING
TO SET THE STAGE FOR MINISTERIAL DECISIONS AT BARI.
WE SUGGEST IN THIS MESSAGE AN APPROACH TO THE TNF
WORK PROGRAM AND REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE FOR THE
OCTOBER 3 PERMREPS SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE OCTOBER 3 NPG PERMREPS DISCUSSION OF TNF
IMPROVEMENTS, DISCUSSION WILL FOCUS ON HOW TO CARRY OUT
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THE TNF INITIATIVE AFTER THE BARI NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING.
AS WE NOTED IN REF A, WE EXPECT THE ALLIES TO LOOK TO
THE US FOR LEADERSHIP. GIVEN THE SHORT PERIOD OF TIME
BETWEEN THE BARI MEETING AND THE SPRING MINISTERIAL
SESSIONS AND SUMMIT, WORK MUST BE INITIATED PROMPTLY
AFTER BARI IN ORDER TO HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO DEVELOP
THE TNF PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT WE SHOULD

AIM TO INCORPORATE IN THE AGREED MINISTERIAL MINUTE
SPECIFIC DIRECTION FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS.

2. IN ORDER TO SET THE STAGE FOR SUCH MINISTERIAL
DIRECTION, THE US SHOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER SPECIFIC
PROPOSALS AT THE OCTOBER 3 PERMREPS SESSION. SOME
GENERAL IDEAS ARE CONTAINED IN THE US COVER LETTER AND
OUTLINE PAPER (REF B) WHICH WE CIRCULATED TO THE ALLIES
ON SEPTEMBER 22, BUT IT IS NECESSARY TO BE MORE SPECIFIC.
THE POST-BARI WORK PROGRAM FOR TASK FORCE 10, IN OUR
VIEW, SHOULD STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN MAINTAINING US
CONTROL AND SECURING ALLIED AND NMA INVOLVEMENT. WE
RECOMMEND BUILDING AROUND THE STATEMENT IN THE OUTLINE
PAPER ON US WILLINGNESS TO TAKE THE LEAD AND TO PREPARE
A BASIC PAPER ON THE OVERALL SIZE AND MIX OF LONG-TERM
THEATER NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES. TO DRAW ALLIES AND NMA'S
INTO THIS UNDERTAKING, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING APPROACH
BE PUT TO THE ALLIES ON OCTOBER 3.

.
- US CHAIR AN EXPERT-LEVEL SESSION SOON AFTER BARI
FOR A BROAD EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE US OUTLINE PAPER;

. - THEREAFTER, US PREPARE A WORKING PAPER FOR
CIRCULATION EARLY IN 1978, INVITING NATIONS AND NMA'S
TO COMMENT;

. - US CHAIR A SECOND EXPERTS-LEVEL SESSION (LATE
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JANUARY-EARLY FEBRUARY) FOR A DETAILED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
ON THE US WORKING PAPER;

. - US THEN PREPARE A DISCUSSION PAPER, TAKING INTO
ACCOUNT ALLIED WRITTEN COMMENTS AND EXPERT-LEVEL
EXCHANGES, FOR PRESENTATION AT THE APRIL NPG MEETING.
OTHER NATIONS COULD ALSO PREPARE SEPARATE CONTRIBUTIONS,
IF THEY WISHED, FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION.

. - US PAPER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD SERVE AS
BASIS FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION AND FOUNDATION FOR
PREPARATION OF A TNF (TASK FORCE 10) INPUT TO THE OVERALL
LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED AT
THE SPRING SUMMIT.

3. WE BELIEVE ABOVE PROPOSALS WOULD PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE
AND MANAGEABLE APPROACH TO CONDUCT THE TNF WORK PROGRAM.
IN THE ABSENCE OF CLEARLY DEFINED US VIEWS, SOME ALLIES
COULD PROPOSE MULTILATERAL DRAFTING EXERCISES WHICH WE
BELIEVE WOULD BE CUMBERSOME AND UNWISE. WE STRONGLY
RECOMMEND THAT WE BE ABLE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AT
THE OCTOBER 3 PERMREPS SESSION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY
00B OCTOBER 3. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO09354
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977095/aaaaaefd.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 083f1343-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USNATO 9197 (DTG 261035Z SEP 77), STATE, 226666 (DTG 211632Z SEP 77), SUMMARY THE ALLIES WILL LOOK PRIMAR, PROPOSALS ON HOW TO CARRY OUT THE TH, (TNF) LONG TERM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1228283
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM: TNF IMPROVEMENTS
TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG
To: SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/083f1343-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009